Qualys Patch Management

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Training Documents

- Patch Management Lab Tutorial Supplement

- Patch Management Slides for Lab Tutorials

- You will find the training documents for this course below this training video (at the very bottom of the page)

- *No trial accounts are provided for this course, all labs are simulated*

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Play Lab Tutorials

Agenda

- Introduction to Qualys Patch Management (PM)

- PM Activation & Setup

- PM Application Overview

- PM Deployment Job

- Prioritized Products

- Patching from VMDR and VM

- Zero-Touch Vulnerability Remediation

- Uninstall Job

- Patch Catalog

- PM Assets

- Certification Exam
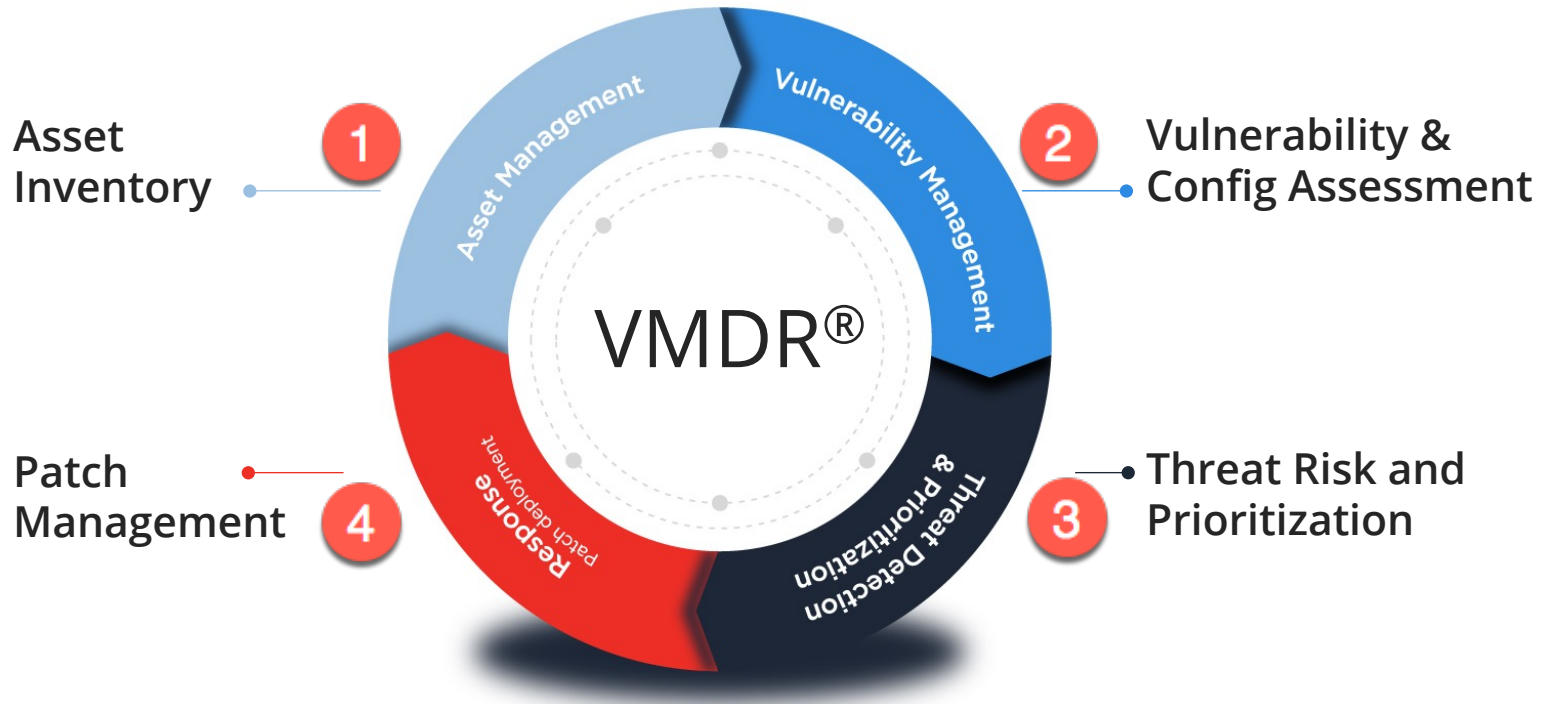
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PM

Introduction

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Qualys Patch Management

- Automatically correlates discovered vulnerabilities with their required patches

- Leverage existing Qualys Cloud Agents to deploy and uninstall patches

- Provides OS and Application patches, including patches from third-party software vendors (e.g., Adobe, Java, Google, Mozilla, Microsoft, etc...)

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Qualys Patch Management

- Available for Windows, CentOS 6/7, and RHEL 6/7/8

- Provides patching just about anywhere an Internet connection is available (e.g., airports, coffee shops, remote offices, etc...)

- Qualys Agents determine which patches are missing or required and can identify superseded patches

- Build patch jobs that target specific vulnerabilities, severity levels, and known threats

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Qualys VMDR Lifecycle

Asset Inventory — 1 — Asset Management

Vulnerability & Config Assessment — 2 — Vulnerability Management

Threat Risk and Prioritization — 3 — Threat Detection & Prioritization

Patch Management — 4 — Response: Patch deployment

VMDR®

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Patch Sources

- Windows patches are downloaded from Vendor Global CDNs (e.g., Oracle, Adobe, Microsoft, Apache, Google, etc...)

- Linux patches are downloaded from the configured YUM repository

- Qualys Gateway Server can be used as a local repository

  o Patch downloads requested by one agent, are cached on QGS and made available "locally" for other agents that need the same patch

  o QGS also provides a cache for manifests and agent binaries

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Activation & Setup

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Qualys Patch Management uses the Qualys Cloud Agent for deploying patches

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Qualys PM Workflow

CA 1. Install Cloud Agent on target host

CA 2. Assign target agent host to a CA Configuration Profile that has PM enabled

CA 3. Activate PM module on target agent host

PM 4. Assign PM license to the host

PM 5. Assign target agent host to a PM Assessment Profile (optional)

PM 6. Configure patch deployment job

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Activation Key

New Activation Key   Turn help tips: On | Off   ✕

Create a new activation key

An activation key is used to install agents. This provides a way to group agents and better manage your account. By default this key is unlimited - it allows you to add any number of agents at any time.

Title   Patch Management Key **1**

                                                              case | Create

Static Tag → PM Enabled ✕ **2**

Provision Key for these applications

☑ CSAM	**CyberSecurity Asset Management** Activations managed by CSAM	☑ **3**	PM	**Patch Management** 699 Activations Remaining
☐ VM	**Vulnerability Management** 498 Activations Remaining	☐	PC	**Policy Compliance** 498 Activations Remaining
☐ EDR	**Endpoint Detection and Response** 99 Activations Remaining	☐	FIM	**File Integrity Monitoring** 49 Activations Remaining
☐ SCA	**Secure Config Assessment** 500 Activations Remaining			

☐ **Set limits**

                                                                          4

Close   Unlimited Key   **Generate**

- As a best practice, assign a static tag when creating an Activation Key

- Create a new activation key or update existing key with Patch Management

Configuration Profile

- Assign target hosts to CA Configuration Profile that has PM enabled.

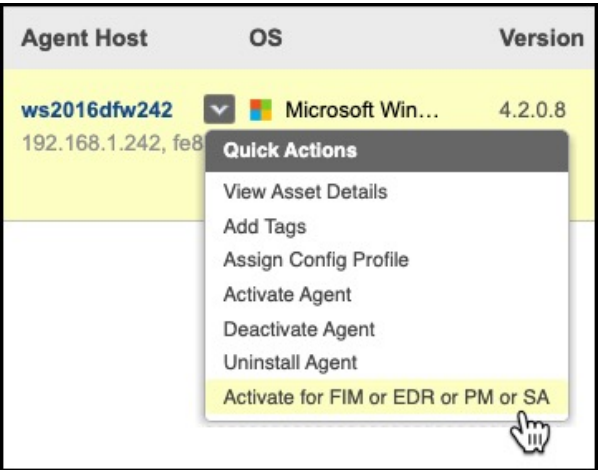- Set "Cache size" to at least 2048 MB, to accommodate Windows Updates.

Activate PM Module for Target Host

- Select the PM module in the Agent Activation Key, before and after agent deployment.

Provision Key for these applications

AI	**Asset Inventory** Activations managed by AI.	
VM	**Vulnerability Management** 13 Activations Remaining	
FIM	**File Integrity Monitoring** 5 Activations Remaining	
SCA	**Secure Config Assessment** 10 Activations Remaining	
PM	**Patch Management** 8 Activations Remaining	
IOC	**Indication of Compromis** 5 Activations Remaining	

Agent Host	OS	Version
ws2016dfw242 192.168.1.242, fe8	⌄ 🪟 Microsoft Win...	4.2.0.8

Quick Actions

View Asset Details
Add Tags
Assign Config Profile
Activate Agent
Deactivate Agent
Uninstall Agent
Activate for FIM or EDR or PM or SA

- Use the "Quick Actions" menu to activate PM for any agent host or use the Qualys Cloud Agent API.

Lab Tutorial 1
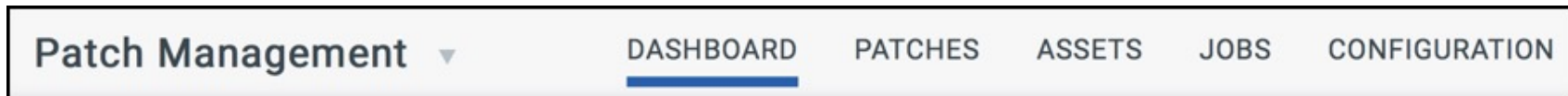
PM Activation & Setup – Page 3

10 min.

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PM

Application Overview

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Patch Management UI

- **CONFIGURATION** – Configure the frequency in which patch assessments are performed and allocate patching licenses.

- **JOBS** – Deploy and/or uninstall specific patches for targeted groups of host assets using one or more PM Jobs.

- **ASSETS** – List of agent host assets the PM module activated.

- **PATCHES** – Catalog containing application and OS patches.

- **DASHBOARD** – Contains "widgets" that monitor important patch statistics.

Patch Assessment Profile

- Specifies frequency of patch assessment scans, which assess agent host assets for missing and/or installed patches.

Configuration: Assessment Profile

- If you do not create one or more Assessment Profiles, the System Profile will be used (by default).

- Assessment scans identify the missing and installed patches for an agent host.

Configuration: License Consumption

- Use Asset Tags to **specify which agent host assets are eligible for patching.**
- Use the "Exclusion" check box to restrict patching on targeted assets.

PM

Deployment Job

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Deployment job

- Use asset tags as targets for patch deployment jobs

- As a recommended practice, **create and use test asset tags** for deployment

- Once verified, **clone the deployment job** and include production asset tags

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Deployment job

Create a patch deployment job

Deployment job – Basic Information

STEPS 1/9

1. Basic Information
2. Select Assets
3. Select Pre-actions
4. Select Patches
5. Select Post-actions
6. Schedule
7. Options
8. Job Access
9. Confirmation

Basic Information

Create this deployment job by selecting assets and patches to be installed. Also, define options you want to display as reminders.

Title for your job *

Patch Windows HQ Servers

Description

This job will deploy patches on Windows HQ servers on Saturday, 25 September 2021

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Deployment job – Select Assets

Deployment job – Pre and Post Actions

Configure action to execute before job starts

Run a PowerShell script or install software

Deployment job – Select Patches

Use patch selector

Select patches using QQL query

← Create: **Windows Deployment Job**

STEPS 4/9

1. Basic Information
2. Select Assets
3. Select Pre-actions
4. Select Patches
5. Select Post-actions
6. Schedule
7. Options
8. Job Access
9. Confirmation

Select Patches

Choose the patches you want to install for the selected assets or create a query to automate the job.

🔘 Manual Patch Selection
Select manually from the available list of patches.

⚪ Automated Patch Selection
Define QQL to automatically identify patches to remedi
the job runs.

There are no patches selected

Take me to patch selector

28

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Deployment job – Manual Patch Selector

View patches within scope of selected assets

Use queries to narrow selections

Use filters to narrow selections

List: **Patch Selector**   Close

```
vendorSeverity:`Critical` and category:`Security Patches`
```

209
Total Patches

Within Scope | All | Add to Job   1 - 50 of **209**

PATCH TITLE	PUBLISHED DATE		ARCHIT	BULLETIN	KB	CATEGORY	QID	VENDOR SEVERITY	CVE
Security Cumulative Update for …	Sep 14, 2021	⏻	X64	MS21-09-W10-…	KB5005573	Security Patch…	91772 / 273 more…	Critical	CVE-2021-36960 / 29 more…
Security update available for Ad…	Sep 14, 2021	⏻	X86	APSB21-55	QARDC2100…	Security Patch…	372564 / 42 more…	Critical	CVE-2021-39851 / 25 more…
Servicing stack update for Win…	Sep 14, 2021	⏻	X64	MS21-09-SSU-…	KB5005698	Security Patch…	91482 / 2 more…	Critical	-
Security Cumulative Update for …	Sep 14, 2021	⏻	X64	MS21-09-W10-…	KB5005568	Security Patch…	91772 / 145 more…	Critical	CVE-2021-36960 / 33 more…
Security Cumulative Update for …	Sep 14, 2021	⏻	X64	MS21-09-W10-…	KB5005565	Security Patch…	91651 / 63 more…	Critical	CVE-2021-36960 / 33 more…
September 14, 2021-KB500562…	Sep 13, 2021	⏻	X64	MS21-09-SO81…	KB5005627	Security Patch…	91814 / 1 more…	Critical	CVE-2021-36960 / 24 more…
KB5005112: Servicing stack up…	Aug 10, 2021	⏻	X64	MS21-08-SSU-…	KB5005112	Security Patch…	91482 / 2 more…	Critical	-

SUPERSEDED
true   171
false   38

APP FAMILY
Windows   148
Firefox   17
Chrome   9
Internet Explorer   9
Java   8
8 more ⌄

VENDOR
Microsoft   166
Mozilla Foundati… 17
Google   9

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Deployment job – Automated Patch Selector

Select patches using QQL query

← Create: **Windows Deployment Job**

STEPS 4/9

1. Basic Information
2. Select Assets
3. Select Pre-actions
4. Select Patches
5. Select Post-actions
6. Schedule
7. Options
8. Job Access
9. Confirmation

Select Patches

Choose the patches you want to install for the selected assets or create a query to automate the job.

○ Manual Patch Selection
Select manually from the available list of patches.

◉ Automated Patch Selection
Define QQL to automatically identify patches to remed
the job runs.

| Patch ∨ | ✕ | `vendor:Microsoft and vendorSeverity:Critical` |

Note: For optimum performance, only missing and non-superseded patches that match the QQL criteria will be added

Use a query to select patches

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Deployment job – Schedule Deployment

Deploy patches on-demand or schedule for later

Set to None to allow Qualys the time needed to complete the job

Set duration for on-demand job

← Create: **Windows Deployment Job**

STEPS 6/9

1 Basic Information
2 Select Assets
3 Select Pre-actions
4 Select Patches
5 Select Post-actions
6 Schedule
7 Options
8 Job Access
9 Confirmation

Schedule Deployment

Schedule the deployment job to run on demand or in the future.

[On Demand | Schedule]   **On Demand:** The deployment job will run once enabled.

Patch Window

You can configure a patch window to run the deployment job only within a particular time frame.

○ None   ○ Set Duration

> **Note:** Not setting the patch window will allow the cloud agent to take as much time as it needs to complete the job.

[Cancel]   [Previous]   [Next]

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Schedule Deployment

- Run jobs "on demand" or schedule them to run at regular frequencies.

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Opportunistic Patch Download

Additional Job Settings

Enable opportunistic patch download   ON
The agent attempts to download patches before a scheduled job runs.

Minimize job progress window   OFF
Allow end-users to minimize message windows.

- You can "Enable opportunistic patch download," to allow agents to download required patches prior to the start of a scheduled job.

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Patch Window

Patch Window

You can configure a patch window to run the deployment job only within a particular time frame.

○ None   ● Set Duration

Note: Setting this will restrict the agent to complete the job within the specified patch window (e.g., start time + 6 hrs). The job gets timed out outside this window.

Patch Window

| 6 | Hours ▼ |

- A job will display the "Timed out" status, if the patch installation does not **start** within a specified patch window.

- Select the "None" option to give patch jobs an unlimited amount of time.

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Communication Options

Deployment and Reboot Communication Options

Define user (recipient) patch deployment communication and reboot warning messages to encourage and educate the user about patch installment and the reboot cycle.

Deployment messages

Pre-Deployment OFF
Display message to users before patch deployment starts.
(If no user is logged in, deployment process starts per job schedule)

Deployment in Progress OFF
Display message to users while patch Deployment is in progress.

Deployment Complete OFF
Display message to users when patch Deployment is complete.

- Choose the type of "Deployment and Reboot Communication Options" for each Deployment Job.

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Communication Options

Reboot messages

Suppress Reboot `OFF`
Asset reboot is suppressed and users are not prompted for reboot post patch installation.

Reboot Request `OFF`
Show a message to users indicating that a reboot is required.
(If no user is logged in, the reboot will start immediately after patch deployment)

Reboot Countdown `OFF`
Show countdown message to users after deferment limit is reached.

- Choose the type of "Deployment and Reboot Communication Options" for each Deployment Job.

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Host "Pop-Up" Messages

- "Pre-Deployment and "Reboot Request messages can be configured with deferment options.

PM Processes & Executables

- When patching is active on a Windows host, patching messages and notifications are managed by the "Qualys Cloud Agent UI" process (QualysAgentUI.exe)

- 'stdeploy.exe' is the name of the patching executable.

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Job Status

View Job Status:

- **Enabled** – Job is presently active.
- **Disabled** – Job is presently inactive.
- **Completed** – Job has completed.

View Job Progress

STATUS	ASSET NAME	OS	PATCHES		
			INSTALLED	FAILED	SKIPPED
Pending Oct 28, 2019	**WS2016DFW242** fe80:0:0:0:d42d:825a:8140:153, 192.168....	Microsoft Windows Server 2016 Stand...	—	—	—
Completed Oct 28, 2019	**WS2012EVAL206** fe80:0:0:0:383a:fada:a31b:e92c, 192.168...	Microsoft Windows Server 2012 R2 Sta...	0	0	1
Completed Oct 28, 2019	**WS2016DFW251** fe80:0:0:0:fd21:1c55:3da9:ba53, 192.168...	Microsoft Windows Server 2016 Stand...	0	0	1

Pending | Job Sent | Downloaded | Patching | Pendir ⏻ | Completed

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Job Status

Status	Description
Canceled – Blackout	Patch deployment job is canceled on the asset due to blackout window
Completed	Patch deployment job is completed on the asset
Downloaded	Patch file is successfully downloaded on the asset
Downloading – failed	Patch failed to download on the asset
Not licensed	Job manifest cannot be sent as the asset does not have PM license
Job started	Agent has started the job
Job resumed	Asset is restarted and agent has resumed the job
Job failed	Agent encountered an error while executing the job
Patching	Patch job is running on the asset
Pending	Patch job is pending for execution on the asset
Pending reboot	Reboot activity is pending for the asset
Rebooted	Asset is restarted after patch installation
Timed out	Job is timed out

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Clone job

Clone an existing job

Lab Tutorial 2

PM Deployment Job – Page 6

10 min.

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Session Break

30 min.

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Prioritized Products

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Prioritized Products

- Focus on products in your environment that are important to patch on a regular basis

- Prioritizes products that introduce the most vulnerabilities from the last 2 years

- Helps answer the question – **which products should I patch first**?

- Create a zero-touch recurring deployment job targeting products with most vulnerabilities

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Prioritized Products

Prioritized Products

Prioritized Products

i This report enables you to view the total number of product vulnerabilities (active and fixed) detected in your environment over the last 2 years.

Actions (2) ▼   ▽ Filters ▼   🏷

View Related Patches

Create Job using Query

View patches related to chosen products

Create deployment job for chosen products

VULNERABILITIES

16191

☑ **Chrome**   13140

☑ **Firefox**   10585

Edge   3704

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Prioritized Products

Query is automatically built based on chosen products

Lab Tutorial 3

Prioritized Products – Page 11

10 min.

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Patching from VMDR and VM

VMDR Prioritization Report

- Identify vulnerabilities that pose the maximum risk to your business

- Correlate vulnerability information with threat intelligence and asset context

- Identify patches required to fix high risk vulnerabilities

- Reduce remediation time with the integrated patch management workflow and zero-touch patching

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VMDR Prioritization

Assets to prioritize

VMDR Prioritization

Export to Dashboard Save & Download

Asset Tags (1)

| Cloud Agent ✕ | ✕ |

11
Total Assets

1.12K
Total Vulnerabilities

CVSS Rating:
Critical	384
High	528
Med	176
Low	24
None	4

Age ⓘ | Detection | Vulnerability |

896

Vulnerabilities

1K
750
500
250
0

104 — 0 — 94 — 22

| 0-30 | 31-60 | 61-90 | 91-180 | 180+ |

Days

Real-Time Threat Indicators (RTI) ⓘ | Match Any | Match All |

POTENTIAL IMPACT

High Data Loss (620) High Lateral Movement (607) Wormable (5) Denial Of Service (609)

Patch Not Available (113) Privilege Escalation (251) Unauthenticated Exploitation (14)

Remote Code Execution (689)

ACTIVE THREATS

Active Attacks (348) Malware (311) Zero Day (8) Exploit Kit (48) Public Exploit (327)

Predicted High Risk (435) Easy Exploit (556) Ransomware (34) Solorigate Sunburst (0)

Attack Surface ⓘ

Running Kernel — ⬤
Running Service — ⬤
Not Mitigated by Configuration — ⬤
Remotely Discoverable Only — ○
Internet Facing Only — ○

Prioritize Now

Prioritize vulnerabilities by age

Prioritize based on RTI's

Prioritize by Attack Surface

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VMDR Prioritization

Patch all vulnerabilities

Select vulnerabilities for patching

Vulnerabilities Section

DASHBOARD **VULNERABILITIES** PRIORITIZATION SCANS REPORTS REMEDIATION ASSETS KNOWLEDGEBASE USERS

Vulnerability ▼ ✕ vulnerabilities.vulnerability.os:windows + ? ≡

Actions (2) ▼ | Asset **Vulnerability** | Group by ... ▼ | 🔽④ Filters ▼ | 1 - 50 of **6544**

View Missing Patches

		SEVERITY	LAST DETECTED	FIRST DETECTED	ASSET
☑	**90698** Microsoft Foundation Class Library Remote Code Execut... *Active*	■■■■■	Sep 27 , 2021	Jul 11 , 2019	**DEMO-GCP-AE1-...** 145387241
☑	**90983** Microsoft Windows Kernel-Mode Driver Remote Code Ex... *Active*	■■■■■	Sep 27 , 2021	Aug 29 , 2020	**WIN-890BLRMES...** 318753887

View missing patches for selected vulnerabilities

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Vulnerabilities Section

A query is built based on your vulnerability selections

Apply missing patches causing vulnerabilities

Patch Management ▾   New Updates   DASHBOARD   **PATCHES**   ASSETS

Patch Catalog

Windows   Linux

2

Total Patches

Patch   ✕   qid:[90698]

Asset   ✕   agentId: [45beb51c-8d76-48af-bf11-9abab92edb1e]

APP FAMILY

Visual C++   2

VENDOR

Microsoft   2

CATEGORY

☑   Actions (2) ▾   ▼² Filters ▾

        View Details
        Add to Existing Job
        Add to New Job
        Remove Patch

                              PUBLISHED DATE   ARCHIT   BULLETIN / KB

☑   ...c...   Apr 12, 2011   ⏻   X86   MS11-025
                                                          KB2538243

☑   **Vulnerability in Mic...**   Apr 12, 2011   ⏻   X64   MS11-025
                                                          KB2538243

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Zero Touch Vulnerability Remediation

Zero Touch Patching

- Update endpoints and servers proactively as soon as patches are available

- Remediate new vulnerabilities even before security teams run scans

- Automate patch vulnerabilities based on the vulnerability RTI

- Can be initiated from "VMDR Prioritization" report or the "Prioritized Products" report

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Zero Touch Patching

VMDR Prioritization

Export to Dashboard   Save & Download

Prioritized Assets ⓘ

6 / 100% of total

of 6

Prioritized Vulnerabilities ⓘ

352 Instances / 21.86% of total / 182 Unique

of 1.61K

Available Patches ⓘ   Details

97

Patch Now ⌄

Vulnerabilities | Patches | Assets

Patch ⌄   🔍 Search...

Actions (0) ⌄   Group By: ... ⌄   1 - 50 of 97

Zero-Touch Patch Job ⓘ	
View Missing Windows Patches	
Windows Patches	82
Linux Patches	15
View Missing Linux Patches	

Initiate zero-touch patch job

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Zero Touch Patching

Create: Windows Deployment Job

STEPS 4/9

1. Basic Information
2. Select Assets
3. Select Pre-actions
4. **Select Patches**
5. Select Post-actions
6. Schedule
7. Options

Select Patches

Choose the patches you want to install for the selected assets or create a query to automate the job.

◯ Manual Patch Selection
Select manually from the available list of patches.

◉ Automated Patch Selection
Define QQL to automatically identify patches to remediate current and future vulnerabilities every time the job runs.

| Vulnerability | ✕ | (vulnerabilities.vulnerability:(threatIntel.malware:True or threatIntel.activeAttacks: |

Note: For optimum performance, only missing and non-superseded patches that match the QQL criteria will be added to the job.

> QQL is automatically populated from the prioritization report

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Lab Tutorial 4

Patching from VM and VMDR – Page 13

Zero-Touch Patch Job – Page 14

10 min.

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Uninstall Job

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Patch Jobs

- Uninstall jobs are created exclusively in the Patch Management application.

- The workflow for creating uninstall jobs is very similar to deployment jobs.

Uninstall or "Rollback" Patches

- Only "rollback" patches are displayed when creating an uninstall job.

- Not all patches can be uninstalled.

Lab Tutorial 5

Uninstall Job – Page 16

10 min.

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Patch Catalog

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Patches

Download list of patches

Create patch job from the "Patches" tab

Catalog's Default Display Filters

Default view shows:
- Missing patches
- Non-superseded patches

Use filters to view:
- Missing and installed patches
- Superseded patches

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Linux Patches

Default filters are NOT applied when viewing Linux patches.

Acquire From Vendor

- Patches identified with the "key-shaped" icon, cannot be downloaded by Qualys' Cloud Agent.

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Uninstall or "Rollback" Patches

`isRollback:true  /* patches that can be uninstalled */`

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Add Patches to Existing Jobs

- Additional patches can be added to any deployment job, before it is enabled

- Additional patches can be added to a "recurring" job, both before and after it is enabled.

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Lab Tutorial 6

Patch Catalog – Page 18

10 min.

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Assets

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PM Assets

- Displays host assets with the PM module activated.

- A successful assessment scan will also display the number of MISSING and INSTALLED patches.

Quick Actions

- Use the "Quick Actions menu to view asset details, add assets to an existing job, or add assets to a new job.

Add Assets to Existing Jobs

- Additional assets can be added to any deployment job, before it is enabled

- Additional assets can be added to a "recurring" job, both before and after it is enabled.

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Lab Tutorial 7

Assets – Page 20

10 min.

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Training Survey and Certification Exam

Training Survey   ⟶   https://forms.office.com/r/rsy0Aja6Xz

Certification Exam   ⟶   https://qualys.com/learning

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PM Certification Exam

Participants in this training course have the option to take the PM Certification Exam:

- 30 multiple choice questions.

- Answer 75% of the questions correctly to receive a passing score.

- Candidates will receive 5 attempts to pass the exam.

- You may use the PM presentation slides and lab tutorial supplement to help you answer the exam questions.

- You may also use the "Help" menu (in the Qualys UI) to answer exam questions.

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Thank You

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